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manager of a missionary enterprise at Luebo in the south central part of the Congo basin, about 1,000 miles from the mouth of the river. This work was an attempt to utilize the American negro to elevate his sable brothers in the heart of Africa. The enterprise is manned chiefly by coloured persons from Mississippi, Virginia, and Alabama, and the fact that it has accomplished most practical and useful results points to the efficiency of the mission. Mr. Verner extended the work over 50 miles to the southwest of Luebo and devoted three years to its interests. He returned to that region last year and brought back with him the pygmies who were seen at the World's Fair in St. Louis.

Mr. Verner is more sanguine than many writers on Africa, and the facts he gives seem to justify his faith in the future of the continent. He praises in the highest terms the efforts of the Government of the Congo Free State and of the missionaries, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, for their philanthropic and educational work among the natives. Both the Government and the missionaries give assiduous attention to the maintenance of schools which include excellent training in carpentry, cabinet work, brickmaking, printing, tailoring, agriculture, and other industrial branches.

He thinks the natives have large capacity, and regards them as wonderfully adept in many branches of work, such as blacksmithing, cloth and mat weaving, wood working, pottery, tanning, house building, etc.; but the coming generations will be able to do much more than the adults of to-day for the reclamation of Africa:

The hope for heathen and barbarous races lies in their children; and the marvelous progress made by these African youth in accommodating themselves to the changed conditions, in assimilating Christian ideas, and in adopting the Western civilization was the most hopeful fact I observed during my life in Africa (p. 129).

A large factor in the progress of the natives is the prohibition of the sale of spirituous liquors among them:

It was a matter of gratification that the international prohibition of the importation and sale of intoxicating liquors in the Central African Zone was so effectively executed. There was, therefore, almost no drunkenness at all among the natives. The sap of the oil palm which made the famous palm wine was unusually mild and innocuous, and only when fermented was it sufficiently alcoholic to intoxicate (p. 137).

Mr. Verner was especially impressed with the agricultural and mineral resources of the part of the Kasai basin in which he lived, with the intelligence, ability and progressive ideas of Ndombe, the King who rules over a large district in that region, and with the possibility of white colonization in some parts of the high plateau of the Congo basin. He speaks of the Congo railroad around the 235 miles of cataracts in the lower river as very remarkable in its success:

So well have the projectors of this railway been rewarded for their faith and daring that the stock of the railway, at a par value of 100, stands now, ten years since the beginning of construction, at over 4,000 on the Bourse of Brussels, and the profits of the original investors have been enormous. The railway has practically a monopoly of all the transportation for the whole immense Congo Valley (p. 59).

The book should be read by all who are interested in the present condition of tropical Africa and the development in progress.

**The Congo. By Roland de Marès.** vi and 118 pp. J. Lebègue & Co., Brussels, 1904. (Price, 1 fr.) (In English.)

Articles printed in the *Indépendance Belge* during June and July, 1904, in reply to attacks upon the Congo Free State.